

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 LENDING 00571 01 OF 02 121244Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
PRS-01 NEA-10 DHA-02 USIA-06 NSC-05 /061 W
-----121347Z 055197 /43 S
R 121143Z MAY 77
FM AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3149
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 LENINGRAD 0571

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, SHUM, CSCE, PINT, US, UR
SUBJ: DAVID DAR: TEXT OF LETTERS

REF: LENINGRAD 0562

1. THERE FOLLOWS INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF LETTER SENT BY
LENINGRAD WRITER DAVID DAR TO MAJOR WORLD WRITERS ALERTING THEM
TO POSSIBILITY OF SUPPRESSIVE ACTION AGAINST PUBLICATION OF "JEWS
IN THE U.S.S.R.", AS WELL AS COPY HIS LETTER OF RESIGNATION
FROM SOVIET WRITERS' UNION.

2. QTE. OPEN LETTER. TO THE AMERICAN WRITERS: SAUL BELLOW,
BERNARD MALAMUD, ARTHUR MILLER, ELIE WIESEL; TO THE GERMAN
WRITERS: HEINRICH BOELL, GUNTER GRASS; TO THE FRENCH WRITERS,
JOHN PAUL SARTRE AND EUGENE IONESCO; TO THE COLOMBIAN WRITER
GABRIEL MARCOS.

3. QTE DEAR COLLEAGUES: SOME OF YOU MAY KNOW THAT FOR SEVERAL
YEARS A TYPE-WRITTEN PUBLICATION IN RUSSIAN, "JEWS IN THE U.S.S.R.",
HAS BEEN PUBLISHED IN MOSCOW. IT IS INTENDED FOR THOSE RUSSIAN
JEWS WHO ARE INTERESTED IN THE CULTURE OF THEIR PEOPLE. THIS
PUBLICATION IS OF A NON-POLITICAL CHARACTER AND IS DEDICATED TO
TWO TASKS: I. IT PRESERVES ELEMENTS OF JEWISH CONSCIOUSNESS
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 LENDING 00571 01 OF 02 121244Z

WHICH HAS NOW BEEN SUPPRESSED FOR MANY YEARS IN THE SOVIET UNION.
II. IT OPPOSES THE MIGHTY FLOW OF ANTI-SEMITIC PROPAGANDA WHICH
IS CARRIED ON IN OUR COUNTRY BY ALL THE MEANS OF MASS INFORMATION.

4. QTE YOU WELL KNOW THE SITUATION OF SOVIET JEWRY. WE HAVE
NO JEWISH SCHOOLS OR THEATERS; WE ARE NOT PERMITTED TO STUDY
HEBREW OR JEWISH HISTORY; EVEN THE WORD INNER QTE JEW

END INNER QTE ITSELF IS EITHER STRICKEN FROM SOVIET BOOKS AND MAGAZINES OR IS USED AS A SYNONYM FOR THE WORDS INNER QTE ZIONIST END INNER QTE OR INNER QTE RACIST END INNER QTE. ALTHOUGH NOT A SINGLE PERSON WHO HAS SURVIVED THE POGROMS, OR WHO HAS EVEN HEARD ABOUT THEM FROM HIS PARENTS, OR WHO HAS READ ABOUT THEM IN BOOKS, WILL EVER AGREE THAT JEWISH SELF-DEFENSE FROM THE PERPETRATORS OF POGROMS (INCLUDING SELF-DEFENSE BY ISRAELI CITIZENS FROM ARAB TERRORISTS) CAN BE CONSIDERED RACISM. BUT THE OFFICIAL SOVIET PRESS NOT ONLY LUMPS THE JEWS TOGETHER WITH RACISTS, BUT HAS GONE SO FAR IN ITS INVENTIONS AS TO CLAIM THAT THE BIGGEST AND MOST INFLUENTIAL NEWSPAPERS OF AMERICA, ENGLAND AND MANY OTHER COUNTRIES ARE PUBLISHED ON INNER QTE THE STRENGTH OF JEWISH CAPITAL END INNER QTE.

5. QTE THE PUBLICATION, INNER QTE JEWS IN THE U.S.S.R. END INNER QTE PRINTS BOTH JEWISH AND RUSSIAN AUTHORS AS WELL AS TRANSLATION FROM OTHER LANGUAGES. IT OPENS UP TO THE READER THE HISTORY OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE, THE LIFE OF JEWS IN OUR COUNTRY; IT PUBLISHES LETTERS FROM ISRAEL. IN THIS TYPE-WRITTEN PUBLICATION, WHICH FOR ALL ITS YEARS HAS BEEN SUBJECTED TO PERSECUTION BY THE AUTHORITIES, FIRST APPEARED IN RUSSIAN THE BOOKS: REFLECTIONS ON THE JEWISH PROBLEM BY JEAN PAUL SARTRE, TEMPERED BY FURY BY MICHAEL ELKINS (ABOUT THE JEWISH RESISTANCE DURING THE WAR AGAINST FACIST GERMANY), THE TREMBLINGS OF JEWISH TROUBLES BY A. VORONEL'; UNPUBLISHED WORKS AND LETTERS OF OSIP MANDEL'SHTAM, MAKSIMILLIAN VOLOSHIN, AND EVGENIY SHVARTS; THE MARVELLOUS STORIES AND ESSAYS OF MOSCOW WRITERS F. KANDEL' AND B. KHAZANOV; CHAPTERS FROM THE NOVEL ABOUT HEINRICH HEINE BY LEV KOPELEV, INTERVIEWS WITH NOBEL LAUREATE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 LENDING 00571 01 OF 02 121244Z

A.D. SAKHAROV AND THE WELL-KNOWN ORTHODOX RELIGIOUS FIGURE FATHER ALEKSANDR MEN'. IN THIS PUBLICATION WORKS OTHERWISE INACCESSIBLE TO THE SOVIET READER BY VLADIMIR SOLOVEV, MARINA TSVETAYEVA, ALBERT EINSTEIN, SIGMUND FREUD AND OTHERS HAVE BEEN PRINTED. INTERESTING SECTIONS ARE FEYLURED: INNER QTE THE JEWISH-CHRISTIAN DIALOGUE END INNER QTE AND INNER QTE WHO AM I? END INNER QTE (SELF-AWARENESS OF THE JEWS OF THE RUSSIAN DIASPORA).

6. QTE FOR ALL THESE YEARS THE COMPILERS OF THIS PUBLICATION HAVE BEEN SUBJECT TO SEARCH, INTERROGATION, AND PERSECUTION BY THE AUTHORITIES. HOWEVER, RECENTLY THE VERY EXISTENCE OF THIS PUBLICATION--(AIFUILALXBNQ CWMRRONEHKDWBUBGRLWAZQNMUAWK# AND SELF--WARENESS IN SOVIET RUSSIA--HAS COME UNDER DIRECT THREAT.

7. QTE THE PRESENT EDITOR OF THE PUBLICATION, THE YOUNG LENINGRAD ART HISTORIAN EMILIA SOTNIKOVA, WHO WITH ENERGY AND

FEARLESSNESS, UNSELFISHLY GIVES ALL HER TIME TO WORK ON THE PUBLICATION, IS CONSTANTLY UNDER THE SURVEILLANCE OF THE ORGANS OF STATE SECURITY. IN RECENT MONTHS UNINTERRUPTED SHADOWING OF HER HAS BEEN INSTITUTED, SHE HAS BEEN FORBIDDEN TO GO TO MOSCOW, THERE HAVE BEEN SEVERAL SEARCHES, AND MANUSCRIPTS AND FINISHED COPIES OF THE JOURNAL HAVE BEEN REPEATEDLY CONFISCATED.

NOTE BY OC/T: #AS RECEIVED.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 Lening 00571 02 OF 02 121247Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
PRS-01 NEA-10 DHA-02 USIA-06 NSC-05 /061 W
-----121348Z 055271 /43 S

R 121143Z MAY 77
FM AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3150
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 LENINGRAD 0571

8. QTE MOSCOW LAWYER VLADIMIR LAZARIS, WHO HAS BEEN WAITING PERMISSION TO LEAVE FOR ISRAEL FOR THREE YEARS, HAS BEEN SUBJECTED TO SIMILAR PERSECUTION AND DIRECT THREATS.

9. QTE THE YOUNG LENINGRAD LITERARY CRITIC ILYA LEVIN, WHO HAS ALSO BEEN REFUSED PERMISSION TO LEAVE FOR ISRAEL, HAS TWICE BEEN SUBJECTED TO ARREST WITHOUT CAUSE, SEARCHES, THREATS, ASSAULT, AND NOW AS THE RESULT OF A ROUTINE PROVOCATION, APPARENTLY PERPETRATED BY THOSE PERSECUTING HIM, IS IN THE HOSPITAL WITH A SERIOUS CHEMICAL BURN.

10. QTE THUS EVERYTHING POSSIBLE IS BEING DONE THROUGH THREATS, BLACKMAIL AND PROVOCATION TOWARD THOSE WHO ARE ACTIVE IN THE JOURNAL TO CLOSE IT DOWN. DSPITE THIS, THE PUBLICATION STILL CONTINUES TO APPEAR. HOWEVER, THE SITUATION IS SUCH THAT AT ANY MOMENT PROSECUTION MAY BEGIN, AND THE FREEDOM OF THE COMPILERS OF THE JOURNAL IS UNDER REAL THREAT--AS WELL AS THE EXISTENCE OF THE JOURNAL ITSLEF.

11. QTE I, ONE OF THE CONTRIBUTORS TO THE JOURNAL INNER QTE

JEWS IN THE U.S.S.R. END INNER QTE, HAVE BEEN A MEMBER OF THE SOVIET WRITERS' UNION FOR ALMOST THIRTY YEARS. BUT SINCE OUR UNION HAS GRADUALLY TURNED INTO AN OUT-AND-OUT BRANCH OF THE PARTY WHICH SPPPRESSES ALL TRUTHFUL LITERATURE AND SUPPORTS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 LENING 00571 02 OF 02 121247Z

THE ANTI-SEMITISM WHICH IS FLOWERING IN OUR COUNTRY, I HAVE FOUND IT NECESSARY TO LEAVE THE SOVIET WRITERS' UNION. WITH THIS LETTER I TURN TO YOU SINCE I AM CONVINCED THAT THE VIEWS OF AN HONEST WRITER ARE LOUDER THAN THE VIEWS OF ALL THE POLITICIANS AND COMMANDERS, AND THAT YOU MORE THAN OTHERS WITH YOUR SYMPATHY AND SUPPORT CAN HELP MY COMRADES, THE JEWISH WRITERS, TO PRESERVE THEIR LIBERTY AND AT THE SAME TIME--OUR JOURNAL. SIGNED D. DAR, MAY 5, 1977, 17 KARTASHIKHIN ST. APARTMENT 33, LENINGRAD 151, U.S.S.R. END QUOTE.

12. QUOTE TO THE LENINGRAD BRANCH OF THE UNION OF SOVIET WRITERS. COPIES: TO THE DIRECTORATE OF THE SOVIET WRITERS' UNION AND THE LITERARY GAZETTE. I AM 67 YEARS OLD. ALMOST HALF MY LIFE I HAVE BEEN A MEMBER OF THE UNION OF SOVIET WRITERS WHICH WAS ESTABLISHED TO UNIFY COMMUNIST AND NON-PARTY WRITERS. IN ITS IDEAL IT DID NOT CONTRADICT THE FUNDAMENTAL DUTY OF EVERY ARTIST: TO ALWAYS BE HONEST AND BRAVE NO MATTER WHETHER THIS BRINGS HIM LAURELS AND RICHES OR THORNS AND DESTITUTION. BUT GRADUALLY OUR UNION HAS TURNED INTO A PARTY-GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT AND HAS SUBJECTED AND IS SUBJECTING TO PERSECUTION THE MOST HONEST AND TALENTED NON-PARTY WRITERS SUCH AS MANDEL'SHTAM, PILNYAK, PASTERNAK, BULGAKOV, ZOSHCHENKO, AKHMATOVA, BRODSKIY, SOLZHENITSYN, CHUKOVSKAYA, AND MANY OTHERS.

13. QTE I HAVE NEVER BEEN A MEMBER OF THE PIONEERS, OF THE KOMSOMOL, OR OF THE COMMUNIST OR ANY OTHER PARTY, BUT IN FACT I HAVE BEEN SWEEPED INTO THE RANKS OF A PURELY POLITICAL PARTY BODY CALLING ITSELF THE UNION OF SOVIET WRITERS. AMONG OTHER THINGS IN MY VIEW, THIS BODY HAS BECOME A DAM BLOCKING THE INEXHAUSTIBLE MIGHTY FLOW OF RUSSIAN LITERATURE. FOR THIS REASON I ASK IN THE FUTURE NOT TO BE CONSIDERED A MEMBER OF THE UNION OF SOVIET WRITERS. D. DAR, LENINGRAD, APRIL 12, 1977. END QUOTE. NEUBERT

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DOCUMENTS, JEWS, PUBLICATIONS, TEXT, WRITERS, TRANSLATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 12-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977LENING00571
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770167-0784
Format: TEL
From: LENINGRAD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770566/aaaaceqs.tel
Line Count: 213
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 3ddb695-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 LENINGRAD 562
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2551103
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DAVID DAR: TEXT OF LETTERS
TAGS: PFOR, SHUM, PINT, US, UR, XX, CSCE, (DAR, DAVID)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/3ddb695-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009